REMARKS

With respect to section 3 of the Official Action, applicant has carefully considered the

passages of the Postman et al U.S. Patent 6, 014, 374 kindly noted in the official action, and

respectfully concludes that Postman et al does not disclose e.g. "an image buffer,.., that stores the

plurality of images generated by the first processing circuit," (pages 3 of the official action, the third

and second lines from the bottom of page 3) when read in the context of the combination of claim 1.

At col. 33, line 1 – 12, of Postman et al, the teaching is that the PC card can decode the barcode

scanning data and "store the resulting alphanumeric characters." (Postman et al, col. 33, line 7 – 12).

This clear teaching of Postman et al points the art away from applicant's teaching e.g. at page 28,

lines 10 – 13, of an image capture unit 202 which "may be constructed smaller and less expensively

than units that perform both image capture and decoding functions, opting to off load higher

performance decoding requirements with a shared host processor (which has "many other tasks",

page 2, bottom paragraph, the third and fourth lines of text of such bottom paragraph; see also page

7, the bottom two lines, and page 8, the top two lines).

Claim 3, in the context of the total combination, recites an image buffer that stores a

predetermined number of the images (before they are decoded by the second processing circuit). At

col. 51, lines 39 – 41, of Postman et al, a "predetermined number of samples" refers to the

embodiment of FIG. 37 where the barcode image data from PC card 776 is "sample data from a

complete barcode" (col. 51, lines 58 – 60). When the data from a complete barcode is in data buffer

778, the barcode decode software routine 798 is invoked (col. 51, lines 58 – 62). In other words the

"predetermined number of samples" at line 40 does not have anticipatory relevance with reference to

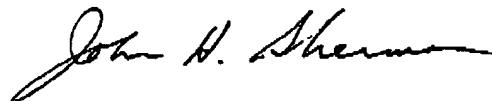the predetermined number of the plurality of images of claim 3, but instead points the art toward

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only a single image being transferred prior to decoding. Compare the present disclosure, e.g. at page 18, the first complete paragraph at page 18, lines 3 - 14.

With respect to claims 15 –18, as previously explained, col. 33, lines 1 – 12 refers to a PC card that decodes the barcode scanning data and stores "the resulting alphanumeric characters" (Postman et al, col 33, lines 7 – 12), pointing the art away from applicants invention as explained with reference to claims 1 and 3.

With respect to sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the official action, in view of the fundamental nature of the distinctions of the base claims over the teachings of Postman et al, it is respectfully submitted that it is apparent how the dependent claims also distinguish over the various proposed combinations of references, and a formal allowance of all of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,

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